



# City Administrator's Report

December 2010

Dear Reader,

*Each month, this report from the City Administrator's Office provides a brief summary and update of major activities, events, projects, and programs that impact the Santa Barbara community. Feel free to share your comments and suggestions with us.*

James L. Armstrong  
[jarmstrong@SantaBarbaraCA.gov](mailto:jarmstrong@SantaBarbaraCA.gov)  
(805) 564-5301

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Key Meetings .....	2
Community Events.....	2
Flags on State Street .....	2
City Administrator's Office.....	3
City Office Holiday Closure. ....	3
Agreement Reached on Police Salary and Benefit Concession. ....	3
Administrative Services Department.....	3
City Website Offers Spanish Translation.....	3
Airport Department.....	4
October Passenger Count Down Slightly. ....	4
Another Public Art Feature for the New Terminal.....	4
Community Development Department.....	4
Plan Santa Barbara. ....	4
Planning Commission Meeting.....	4
Finance Department .....	4
Transient Occupancy Tax Update.....	4
Fire Department.....	5
Holiday Safety Tips. ....	5
Library Department .....	6
Mora Award for Dia Festival.....	6
Library Receives Grant Funding.....	6
Read for the Record.....	6
Parks and Recreation Department.....	6
Youth Council Hosts Teens Rights Workshop. ....	6
Sustainable Landscape to Replace Lawn at Davis Center. ....	6
Milpas Street Corridor Adopted by Santa Barbara Arts Alliance Youth.....	6
Winter Break Camps Available for Registration. ....	7
Mission Creek Restoration and Fish Passage Project at Oak Park Nearly Complete.....	7
Everything Coming Up Roses. ....	7
Police Department .....	7
Milpas Street Enforcement. ....	7
Police Assist Mentally Ill Transients. ....	7

Police Discuss Importance of Communication. ....	8
Public Works Department .....	8
City Joins California Water and Wastewater Emergency Response Network.....	8
Cash for Making Your Garden More Water Wise. ....	8
Credit Cards Now Accepted at Downtown Parking Lots and Garages.....	8
Find City Construction Projects on the Public Works Engineering Website. ....	8
Haley and De La Vina Bridge Replacement and Lower Westside Neighborhood Update. ....	9
Waterfront Department .....	9
25 <sup>th</sup> Annual Parade of Lights. ....	9
Cruise Ship Visits for 2011. ....	9
Stearns Wharf Christmas Tree. ....	10
2011 Waterfront Parking Permits Available.....	10
Waterfront Secures Two Watercraft Disposal Grants. ....	10

## Key Meetings

### *City Council Meetings*

Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, January 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>  
City Hall Council Chambers, 735 Anacapa Street,  
2 p.m.

## Community Events

### *Annual Rose Pruning*

Saturday, January 15<sup>th</sup>. Help prune the popular  
A.C. Postel Memorial Rose Garden across from the  
Mission.

### *Martin Luther King Holiday*

Monday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. City offices closed.

## Flags on State Street

### *Holiday Flags*

December 6<sup>th</sup> through January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011

### *Gay Santa Barbara*

January 3<sup>rd</sup> through January 10<sup>th</sup>

### *Sansum Clinic*

January 10<sup>th</sup> through January 20<sup>th</sup>

### *Planned Parenthood*

January 20<sup>th</sup> through January 27<sup>th</sup>

### *Santa Barbara International Film Festival*

January 27<sup>th</sup> through February 7<sup>th</sup>

## City Administrator's Office

**City Office Holiday Closure.** Most City administrative offices and facilities will be closed from Monday, December 20<sup>th</sup> through Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup> due to furlough or unpaid leave for employees. Offices will reopen on Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Central and Eastside Libraries will reopen on Tuesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>. To close the City's budget deficit, all City employees agreed to significant labor concessions, generating approximately \$4 million in savings to the General Fund. For many groups, these concessions included a furlough or unpaid leave during the holidays and key dates throughout the year.

**Agreement Reached on Police Salary and Benefit Concession.** Last month, the City and the Police Officers Association (POA) reached a three-year agreement on salary and benefit concessions. The agreement covers 137 sworn police officers and 47 non-sworn employees. The agreement will generate a significant cost savings to the City's General Fund, amounting to approximately \$945,000 in Fiscal Year 2011 and \$780,000 in Fiscal Year 2012, equivalent to a 5% and 4% salary reduction in each year, respectively. The agreement will not significantly increase costs in Fiscal Year 2013. The City and POA also agreed to reopen the agreement and resume labor negotiations in Fiscal Year 2013 in the event of a fiscal emergency.

The police officers joined managers, supervisors, general employees, and firefighters in reducing salaries and benefits to help address the City's \$9 million budget shortfall this year. As a result of overall labor concessions, the City Council balanced the Fiscal Year 2011 budget and added funding for four police officer positions and one fire captain position, in addition to restoring numerous budget cuts affecting all departments.

## Administrative Services Department

**City Website Offers Spanish Translation.** The City website has implemented the "Google Translate" feature at no charge to allow website visitors to translate information on City services from English into Spanish.

Several website applications are not supported by this service but are being investigated and will be enabled if possible.

The following sections can be translated:

- All main sections (Government, Resident, Business, Visitor)
- Community Development Case Status and Parcel Look-up
- Reporting forms such as Street Repair requests, Graffiti reporting and Defensible Space Inspection/Neighborhood Presentation Request web forms

The following sections are not able to be translated at this time:

- Council and Commission Meeting Agendas, Minutes and Videos served by Granicus
- "Jobs at the City of Santa Barbara" hosted by NeoGov
- eRecreation

Google Translate requires that website visitors use more recent versions of their Internet browser, namely Microsoft Internet Explorer version 7 or higher. For those visitors with version 6 and older, web services are still provided, but the translation feature is not available. Microsoft offers free downloads for their newer browser versions.

## Airport Department

**October Passenger Count Down Slightly.** In October, 61,645 airline passengers were served at Santa Barbara Airport, a slight decrease of 0.7% compared to 62,083 passengers in October 2009. Comparatively, seat capacity dropped 11% month over month making the average load factor for all airlines 77.8%. The highest average passenger loads were aboard the United flights to Denver (89.1%), Horizon Air flights to Seattle (87.0%), and Frontier flights to Denver (84.5%).

**Another Public Art Feature for the New Terminal.** Regional artists were encouraged to submit proposals for a series of transparent walkway flags at a mandatory pre-bid meeting last month. The initial concept is to tell the story of the Marine Corps Air Station at the Santa Barbara Airport during the early 1940's through a series of photographs. The Pierre Claeysens Veterans Museum and Library Foundation is sponsoring the project in cooperation with the City of Santa Barbara's Airport Department and County Arts Commission. For more information, visit: [FlySBA.com](http://FlySBA.com).

## Community Development Department

**Plan Santa Barbara.** On November 23<sup>rd</sup>, the City Council voted to deny the proposed *Plan Santa Barbara* General Plan update. A General Plan amendment, per the City Charter, requires a super majority of the Council (five affirmative votes) for adoption. The motion to adopt failed on a 4-3 vote with Council members Francisco, Hotchkiss and Self voting no. Issues of contention included residential densities, circulation policies, and the overall framework to promote a more sustainable community. Staff will return to the Council in February 2011 with several options for how the Council may wish to proceed.

**Planning Commission Meeting.** The Planning Commission is scheduled to hold a meeting on December 16<sup>th</sup>. The Commission will make a decision on a Conditional Use Permit for a proposal to add six apartments to a church property at 1032 East Mason Street, and make recommendations on the 2012-2017 Public Works Capital Improvements Program.

## Finance Department

**Transient Occupancy Tax Update.** Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT), or hotel bed tax, revenue for the month of October was \$1.06 million, an increase of 12.1% from October 2009. This is good news since the heavy summer travel season has passed and the October growth is larger than the growth seen in the past two months (August, 7.9% and September, 4.4%). It is important to note, however, that the 12.1% increase growth is in relation to a decline of 10% in October 2009, which means October TOT has effectively only increased by 2.1% since 2008.

Year-to-date TOT growth from the previous year is 9.3%, which is \$457,900 above the adopted budget. The City will closely monitor the trend through the holiday season.

## Fire Department

***Holiday Safety Tips.*** The Fire Department wants to make sure that you have a safe and happy holiday season by following some important safety tips.

### Trees

- When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree is green; needles are hard to pull from branches and when bent between your fingers, needles do not break. The trunk butt of a fresh tree is sticky with resin, and when tapped on the ground, the tree should not lose many needles.
- When setting up a tree at home, place it away from fireplaces and radiators. Because heated rooms dry live trees out rapidly, be sure to keep the stand filled with water. Place the tree out of the way of traffic and do not block doorways.

### Lights

- Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections, and throw out damaged sets.
- Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord.
- Turn off all lights when you go to bed or leave the house. The lights could short out and start a fire.

### Decorations

- Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens. Always use non-flammable holders, and place candles where they will not be knocked down. Never leave candles or devices with open flames unattended.
- In homes with small children, take special care to avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable, keep trimmings with small removable parts out of the reach of children to avoid the child swallowing or inhaling small pieces, and avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food that may tempt a child to eat them.

### Fireplaces

- Have the chimney inspected annually, and cleaned as necessary, by a professional chimney sweep to ensure it's clear of obstructions and creosote.
- Keep a fire extinguisher on hand.
- Make sure the area around the fireplace is clear of furniture, books, newspapers and other potentially flammable materials (two feet away is a good rule).
- Do not burn wrapping papers, boxes, or Christmas trees in the fireplace. A flash fire may result as wrappings ignite suddenly and burn intensely.

For more information, please visit the City's website at <http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov>.

## Library Department

***Mora Award for Día Festival.*** The Santa Barbara Public Library was selected as one of three winners of the 2010 Estela and Raul Mora Award for most exemplary programs celebrating *El Día de los Niños/El Día de los Libros* (Day of the Book/Day of the Child). The award recognizes community programs that exhibit a daily commitment to link children to books, languages, and cultures. With financial support from the Santa Barbara Junior League and the Community Action Commission, in addition to a small grant from the California State Library, the Library's day-long *Día* literacy festival last April featured readings and presentations by authors, craft and activity tables. Over 900 children and families attended *Día*, and 50 new library cards were issued.

***Library Receives Grant Funding.*** The Friends of the Santa Barbara Library were among five California winners of Verizon's *Check Into Literacy* grant awards, based on over 7,000 text votes received by Verizon. The Library will receive \$9,700 in support of library literacy programs. Thank you to all our friends who texted in support of our programs! The Allergan Foundation also awarded the Friends \$2,000 to enhance the Library System's arts and cultural programming for children. The grant will provide funding for additional family programs at the library.

***Read for the Record.*** For the fifth year in a row, the Library has distributed free books to local children as part of *Read for the Record*, a nation-wide effort to promote reading readiness. As part of this year's world-record-setting readaloud, the 500 free take-home copies of Ezra Jack Keats' classic picture book, *The Snowy Day*, were distributed through the Library's Preschool Outreach Program at 12 local preschools. The books were donated by Jumpstart, a national nonprofit that promotes early childhood education.

## Parks and Recreation Department

***Youth Council Hosts Teens Rights Workshop.*** The Santa Barbara Youth Council, in collaboration with other local youth leadership groups, held a Teen Rights Workshop on November 15<sup>th</sup>, to educate local teens about their legal rights. The focus was on police traffic stops, drugs and alcohol, teen domestic violence and school regulations. The event partnered 115 youth and adult facilitators for each workshop, and educated teens about their legal rights and responsibilities. The event was held to help narrow the communication gap between teens and authority figures.

***Sustainable Landscape to Replace Lawn at Davis Center.*** The City and the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Master Gardeners of Santa Barbara County have teamed up to create a water-wise and sustainable landscape at the Louise Lowry Davis Center. Over the next month, the lawn landscape will be transformed to a water-wise, low maintenance garden that meets today's sustainability requirements. Please stop by to see the progress, or call 564-5433 for further information.

***Milpas Street Corridor Adopted by Santa Barbara Arts Alliance Youth.*** As a good example of how youth in the community are working to improve their neighborhoods, the Santa Barbara Arts Alliance youth have adopted the Milpas Street corridor from Canon Perdido to

Cabrillo Boulevard, through the Adopt-A-Block Program. The youth are primarily conducting graffiti abatement along Milpas Street and creating a schedule, available in January, which will permit them to conduct a bi-weekly walk through of the area to address graffiti issues. For further information, please call the Franklin Neighborhood Center at 963-7605.

**Winter Break Camps Available for Registration.** The Parks and Recreation Department is offering some options for parents during the winter break from December 20<sup>th</sup> through 31<sup>st</sup>. **SK8 Skool**, previously known as the Skate Clinic, will be held at Skater's Point from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., Monday, December 20<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> for 6 to 12 year olds. Groups no larger than five are organized by skill level for instruction, challenge games and open skate time with professional instructors. Parents needing an afternoon break for holiday shopping will want to drop off their young "engineer" to the **Holiday Lego Workshop** for 5 to 9 year olds on Monday, December 20<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Kids will create a fun festive holiday village with Legos and parents can return and enjoy their creations and some holiday goodies. Karen Putnam is offering two **Art from the Heart camps** over the holidays for children 6 months to 8 years old, Mondays through Thursdays from 9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at the MacKenzie Park Adult Building. The Christmas Cookie Camp runs from Monday, December 20<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>; and the Polka Dotted Animal Art from Monday, December 27<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, December 30<sup>th</sup>. To find out more information and register, call 564-5495 or 966-9078 (Art from the Heart) or visit the City's website at [www.sbparksandrecreation.com](http://www.sbparksandrecreation.com).

**Mission Creek Restoration and Fish Passage Project at Oak Park Nearly Complete.** Located at the Tallant Road Bridge at the upstream end of Oak Park, the Mission Creek Restoration and Fish Passage Project began in July of this year. Funded in part by grants from the California Department of Fish and Game and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, construction in the creek included the removal of a concrete grade control structure, the replacement of a sewer main, and the construction of pools and riffles to allow easier passage for the endangered Southern steelhead trout. Landscaping and re-vegetation of the creek banks is currently underway, which includes the installation of 1500 native plants and trees.

**Everything Coming Up Roses.** Save the date of Saturday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and join the Parks and Recreation Department staff for the Annual Rose Pruning at the A.C. Postel Memorial Rose Garden across from the Mission. Learn how to prune roses as well as get together with friends to volunteer your time helping to keep this award-winning rose garden even more beautiful.

## Police Department

**Milpas Street Enforcement.** The lower Milpas Street area and Cabrillo Ball Field continue to be the focus of extra enforcement and directed police patrols. In addition to the nuisance crimes of open containers of alcohol, public urination, and littering, surveillance teams have been staged to catch the drug users and dealers. As a result, many arrests have been made for: sales and possession of drugs, parole violation, and other charges.

**Police Assist Mentally Ill Transients.** Police Officer Keld Hove continues his work dealing with our community's homeless population with mental health problems. He focuses on those individuals creating the largest number of disturbances, calls for service, or enforcement action.

He researches files to locate relatives, gains cooperation from mental health workers, and counsels individuals to stay off drugs and alcohol. On occasion he has personally driven a client directly to a rehabilitation center located in Ventura or Los Angeles Counties. As a result, numerous otherwise homeless people with mental health or addiction problems would further deteriorate, causing untold problems. Although time consuming, ignoring the problem further burdens police and community resources.

***Police Discuss Importance of Communication.*** On November 19<sup>th</sup>, Lt. Paul McCaffrey gave a presentation at Santa Barbara Community College to students in the Communications Program on the role of communication in law enforcement. Several students remarked that prior to the presentation they had not considered a career in law enforcement. The students came away with the understanding that communications skills are the most important attribute for a police officer.

## **Public Works Department**

***City Joins California Water and Wastewater Emergency Response Network.*** The City has agreed to become a party to the California Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network (CalWARN) through the 2007 Omnibus Mutual Assistance Agreement to support and promote statewide emergency preparedness, disaster response, and mutual assistance matters for public and private water and wastewater utilities.

As a member of CalWARN, the City will be part of a mutual assistance agreement where emergency resources are shared among California water agencies. This program will assist the City with resources to respond and recover more quickly from a disaster.

***Cash for Making Your Garden More Water Wise.*** The Smart Landscape Rebate Program offers rebates on 50% of the cost of water wise plants, irrigation equipment, smart irrigation controllers, and mulch. City water customers are eligible for rebates up to \$1,000 for single family homes and up to \$2,000 per account serving irrigated areas (\$4,000 maximum per site) for commercial, multi-family, and homeowner's associations.

Projects must be approved in advance. To schedule a pre-inspection or receive more information, call 564-5460 or visit: [www.savewatersb.org](http://www.savewatersb.org).

***Credit Cards Now Accepted at Downtown Parking Lots and Garages.*** The City is now accepting credit cards at downtown parking lots and garages. Using a credit card upon exiting allows motorists an easy payment option and gives parking attendants the ability to quickly and easily complete transactions. No more waiting in line to exit because someone didn't have the cash to pay their fee!

Hourly parking fees will remain the same, with the first 75 minutes free, courtesy of the Downtown Merchants. Each hour or part of an hour after the initial 75 minutes is \$1.50.

***Find City Construction Projects on the Public Works Engineering Website.*** The City's Public Works Department has updated their web page with a new and improved look! The web page is designed to provide information to the public in an easy-to-navigate layout.



Key features include the following:

- Maps that identify the location of major projects in construction or in the design phase;
- Project descriptions and contact information;
- Right-of-Way Permits and Information;
- Projects currently out for bid; and
- Pavement maintenance schedules.

Save a trip to the Public Works counter at 630 Garden Street! Check out the new website at <http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov>.

***Haley and De La Vina Bridge Replacement and Lower Westside Neighborhood Update.*** Over the last few months, City Engineering has finished demolition, shoring, excavation, and pile driving for the new bridge at Haley and De La Vina Streets. At the beginning of November, the main concrete deck for the new, wider bridge was poured. In the storm-damaged areas on Haley Street, damaged sidewalks were repaired. New street trees will be planted following the reopening of the intersection at Haley and De La Vina Streets. Additional project information and fact sheets are available online at <http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov>.

In the months ahead, crews will build the new bridge and transition walls that direct creek water under the bridge. Installation of new utilities will also occur for sewer, water, gas, electrical, and storm drains. Following utility construction, street lighting and intersection improvements will take place. The intersection is scheduled to reopen to vehicles in the spring of 2011 with the remainder of construction wrapping up in the summer.

In the lower Westside neighborhood, four new streetlights have been installed on Brinkerhoff Avenue, and the overall lighting project is completed.

## **Waterfront Department**

***25<sup>th</sup> Annual Parade of Lights.*** The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Parade of Lights took place on December 12<sup>th</sup>. Festivities began with a Santa's Village event on the City Pier featuring a visit from Santa, ten tons of snow, and holiday music. Distinguished judges, along with thousands of spectators cheered on the boats decorated to the theme of "Silver Bells and Winter Swells." A short fireworks display followed the boat parade. The awards ceremony was held at the Carriage and Western Art Museum of Santa Barbara. This year's parade celebrated a quarter-century of Santa Barbara harbor boating tradition.

For a list of winners, visit: <http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov>.

***Cruise Ship Visits for 2011.*** The Waterfront Department, Santa Barbara Conference and Visitors Bureau, Santa Barbara Chamber of Commerce, and the Santa Barbara Downtown Organization has successfully encouraged interest from cruise lines for additional cruise ship visits to Santa Barbara over the next two years. The upcoming December 19<sup>th</sup> *Sapphire Princess* visit will be the last planned cruise ship visit for 2010. During 2011, seven more visits are scheduled from two cruise lines—Crystal Cruises and Princess Cruises. With renewed interest, it's possible the City will have up to thirteen visits through 2012. A smooth process has been established with multiple government agencies to successfully host these visits.

**Stearns Wharf Christmas Tree.** For the third consecutive year, the Stearns Wharf Business Association has sponsored a 35-foot Christmas tree on the shoreward finger of the wharf adjacent to the Ty Warner Sea Center. The Wharf Association funded the tree purchase and the City coordinated with Oliver Holt Christmas Trees for delivery and installation. The tree will be on display throughout the holiday season until January 4, 2011.

**2011 Waterfront Parking Permits Available.** The Annual Waterfront Parking Permits are now available for purchase. Annual permit prices remain the same as last year's prices. General permits cost \$95 and slip-holder permits (one per slip) cost \$70. Permits are valid from the date of purchase through December 31, 2011. The Waterfront Department encourages residents and slip holders to purchase their 2011 permit early for a whole year of economical parking. General permits are available at all Waterfront parking kiosks except Stearns Wharf, or at the Harbormaster's Office. Slip-holder permits may only be purchased at the Harbormaster's Office. For more Waterfront Parking information, call 897-1965.

**Waterfront Secures Two Watercraft Disposal Grants.** The Waterfront Department received approval for two Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW) grants totaling \$48,500 for disposal of abandoned or derelict boats: \$40,500 from DBW's Abandoned Watercraft Abatement Fund for removal and disposal of abandoned recreational vessels in City waters and on City beaches; and \$8,000 from DBW's new Vessel Turn-In Program, which allows the City to accept, for disposal, derelict vessels that are voluntarily surrendered by their owners. Grant funds reimburse the City for 90% of the cost to dispose of vessels.